

March 28, 2019

Dear University Prep Community,

I am thrilled to be joining you as the next head of school. My excitement about joining a community founded by visionary, Seattle educators to best meet the needs of all learners is immense!

I first learned about all that UPrep had to offer when seven years ago, new to Seattle, I was invited to tour the school by then head of school, Erica Hamlin. I loved seeing eleven year-old students sharing hallways with 17 and 18 year-old students, both groups learning from each other. The excited voices in the halls reminded me of my own 7th through 12th grade experience at Boston Latin School, where all age groups shared common spaces and learned from each other. I remember as a 7th grader looking up into the faces of high school seniors imagining I would one day be that old!

Since then, I have returned to UPrep many times always looking on in admiration at the forward thinking leadership of Matt Levinson and the enthusiasm shown by all the faculty and staff. That forward thinking and innovative attitude was captured in the school's strategic plan and I look forward to moving the initiatives in that plan forward.

I have many conversations yet to engage in with all of you in the UPrep community. But the ones I have had over the years illustrate the passion that teachers, trustees, and staff have for the school. Eyes lit up when different aspects of the curriculum or school traditions were shared. What an impression everyone I have met made on me! I can't wait to hear from the rest of you!

Yes, UPrep is a strong and visionary school, but as does every institution, it still has room to grow. My work on the local and national level with NWAIS and NAIS has shown me where independent schools can really grow and change. The need for schools to reimagine what and how they teach is essential. With a strong and visionary strategic plan, UPrep is well on its way to becoming the leader in innovative teaching and learning. With the addition of Intensives and with new facilities looming on the horizon, UPrep is ready for the next stage of its young life.

I am excited to partner with all of you on the journey to help UPrep become the very best it can be. I officially start as your new Head of School on July 1, 2020, but until then I hope to spend as much time as I can on campus. I look forward to growing with, and learning from, all of you.

Sincerely,

Ronnie

Veronica Codrington-Cazeau